

September 6, 2020



Newsletter

### Virtual Club Games

Monday	6:45	Open
Tuesday	9:45	Open
Wednesday	9:45	0-500
Thursday	9:45	Open
Friday	9:45	0-500

### Inside this Issue:

**Letter from LBC President**  
Page 2

**Note of Thanks**  
**Unit 249 AGM**  
**Tournament Sanctions**  
Page 3

**Columbia Invitation**  
Page 4

**Upcoming Courses**  
Page 5 & 6

**Ask Dwight**  
Page 7

**Peter's Lesson**  
Page 8

**Virtual Corner**

- **Wednesday game**
- **Guests**
- **Club championship**
- **Robots**

Page 9 & 10

## CECRA APPLICATION APPROVED!

Since March 14, the doors have been locked at London Bridge Centre's premises on Dearness Drive. We have been extremely grateful that our landlord, **Litera Properties Inc.**, has been exceptionally supportive and agreed to defer payment of part of the rent.

The Canadian and Ontario governments launched a program, the **Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance** program (**CECRA**) to support businesses that were forced to close their premises and experienced a significant loss of revenue during the pandemic. Under CECRA, the tenant pays 25% of the rent, the landlord waives 25%, and the Canadian and Ontario government each pay 25%. CECRA covers five months, April through August. Litera agreed to participate in CECRA and helped us to apply. In late August, the application was approved!

In total, this reduced LBC's expenses by almost \$17,000. This savings, and the continued support of Litera, leave us in a strong financial position to sustain an extended closure. We look forward to a gradual reopening at the appropriate time, after London community health protocols have been further relaxed and the majority of members would be willing to attend.

**Al Edwards**  
**Past President, LBC**



## A Letter from the President of of LBC

### Hello Members of the London Bridge Centre,

While we may not always agree with our partner's bids, there is one thing that we can all agree on and that is the desire to return to face-to-face bridge.

As stated in our last newsletter, we are being very watchful of the clubs who have reopened. I have been in contact with a number of these clubs in **Florida, Quebec, the Maritimes, and Ontario**. We are gathering information about their updated standards and best practices so that we can develop a new set of procedures that would ensure, as much as possible, the safety of our members when we return to the club.

None of these clubs has completely reopened. They are running a very limited number of tables in order to maintain the appropriate social distancing between tables. The majority of their members continue to play online. We will take the same approach when we reopen. In addition, it is likely that a number of our members will continue with the on-line games until they feel comfortable returning to the club.

As we continue to follow the guidelines established by the [Middlesex-London Health Unit](#), we expect that even a very limited re-opening will be many months away. In the meantime, we encourage you to continue playing on-line as it brings personal enjoyment and much needed revenue into our club.

**See you** at the **Virtual Club** table,  
**Judy Stirling**



**NOTE:** If you are not yet playing online but wish to do so, please click [here](#) or visit the [LBC web site](#) for information and assistance.

## Bridge News



**Thank you  
Marie and  
students!**

### Sharing some Good News

**Marie Wiley** has been doing *fifth chair* sessions with several groups of students since May. Marie stated, “Almost all of them are Tuesday afternoon or Saturday morning attendees so they are not playing in the **Virtual Club** games. However, they wanted to support the club. I told them if they paid more than I was asking I would donate the excess to the club.”

At this point the donation will be about \$300.

## Unit 249 Annual General Meeting Saturday, September 12 @ 10:30 a.m. Via Zoom

For Zoom link and instructions, interested members should contact  
Jennifer Verdam-Woodward  
[jenvw@hurontel.on.ca](mailto:jenvw@hurontel.on.ca)

**NOTE:** Unit 249 includes 24 bridge clubs that encompass the area in Southwestern Ontario from Guelph to Windsor to Georgian Bay.



### Tournament Sanctions are Cancelled for January and February 2021 Message from ACBL

At this time, we are not hopeful there will be a vaccine or a significant change in the current conditions to allow in-person play for January and February. We are announcing this now so Units and Districts can begin cancelling their events.

**No decision has been made regarding the spring NABC or March tournaments.**



# Columbia Employee Store Invitation

## September 4<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>

This offer is available to current LBC members ONLY. The invitation is non-transferrable. The LBC member must be present to redeem the invitation.

To take advantage of the program, the following details are important:

- ✓ You must present **photo ID**.
- ✓ You must bring a **copy of the invitation**, either print or digital. The bar code on the invitation is essential for entry. The invitation includes pertinent information.
- ✓ To download a copy of the invitation, click [here](#).
- ✓ The invitation can be used multiple times per invitation period.
- ✓ You may bring up to 4 guests each time you visit the store.

**NOTE:** LBC name tag is **not** required on this occasion.

Thanks to Carol Wigle for arranging this opportunity.



### Be Safe Information from Columbia

The safety of our employees and shoppers is our number one priority. Below are some of the precautions we are taking to ensure safety while in our store:

- Wiping down and sanitizing checkout surfaces between each customer
- Sanitizing fitting rooms between each customer
- Providing hand sanitizer for shoppers and employees
- 6' marked checkout lines to maintain social distancing
- Limiting number of customers allowed in the store at one time
- All people will be wearing face coverings
- Contactless payment options

## Learning Opportunities Courses



Contact Audrey for information and registration.

[audrey-craig@rogers.com](mailto:audrey-craig@rogers.com)

**Audrey Craig** is offering the following **3 courses**. Courses will be taught in the format of 5<sup>th</sup> chair.

A group of 4 will play prepared hands specifically developed by Audrey for this course via **Bridge Base Online (BBO)**. Audrey and her students will communicate via **Zoom** throughout each 2-hour lesson with applied practice.

Although each group will have only 4 participants, Audrey is available to work with multiple groups at a suitable time for each group. Register with a partner or group of 4.

**2 Over 1 Game Force** is the most popular bidding system in use in tournament bridge across North America. It is not radically different from Standard American bidding. However, it has some added considerations that make game and slam bidding more accurate.

**Start Date:** October 1<sup>st</sup> but you may register now.

**Duration:** 4 sessions

**Cost:** \$50

**Play of the Hand 1** reviews basic bidding and provides the opportunity to become more skilled at playing hands. Topics include planning the play in no-trump and in suit contracts, developing tricks through promotion and length, eliminating losers through ruffing, discarding or finessing, and managing entries.

**Play of the Hand 2** continues to review basic bidding and presents more sophisticated play of the hand techniques.

**Start Date:** Either course can begin now, at your arranged time.

**Duration:** 4 sessions (for **each** of the **Play of the Hand** courses):

**Cost:** \$40 (for **each** of the **Play of the Hand** courses)

## Learning Opportunities Courses



[Marie Wiley](#)

For registration or  
information, contact Marie.  
[mewiley@rogers.com](mailto:mewiley@rogers.com) or  
519-433-1537

### Marie Wiley is offering **Opening Leads and Signals**

Would you like to improve your score in club games?  
Would you like to be better at finding successful  
opening leads?  
Would you like to be more competent at the most  
difficult aspect of bridge?

**Working on defensive skills is the key if you answered  
"Yes!" to any of the above questions.**

This Introduction to Defense course, *Opening Leads and Signals*, will be offered online using **Zoom** and a teaching platform such as **BBO**. It was successfully tested in August with a small group of students and found to be an effective way of learning more about defense.

**Start Date:** Tuesday, October 20<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** 2:00-4:00 p.m.

**Duration:** 5 sessions \*\*

**Where:** Your living room or den or kitchen - wherever you have a computer

**Cost:** \$62.50 plus the textbook

\*\*An advantage of online courses is that some flexibility is possible if the timetable outlined above does not fit your schedule. Private classes for two, three, or four are possible at a slightly higher cost. Contact me for further information.

If you need help getting into playing bridge online, or have never used Zoom before, let me know well ahead of the start date of the course. I will arrange to assist you.

### NOTE:

For courses using **Zoom** you will **not** need to download Zoom technology. An invitation that includes a hotlink before each session will be sent to you by your instructor.

# Learning Opportunities continued



Dwight Bender

## Ask Dwight

Why make the same bridge mistakes again? If you are wondering how to defend better or bid to the best game or slam, there is help available. Click on [Ask Dwight](#) and submit your question.

Dear Dwight,

On hand 13 in Tuesday's game East opened 1D, West bid 1H, East bid 2C, West bid 3S, East bid 3NT, West passed.  
We made 7NT.

How do we get to slam?  
Who takes the lead?

Thank you,  
J

<b>D</b> 13	<b>N</b> ♠ J73 ♥ 943 ♦ Q87 ♣ K983	<table border="1"> <tr><th>W</th><th>N</th><th>E</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td>P</td><td>1♦</td><td>P</td><td>P</td></tr> <tr><td>1♥</td><td>P</td><td>2♣</td><td>P</td></tr> <tr><td>3♠</td><td>P</td><td>3NT</td><td>P</td></tr> <tr><td>P</td><td>P</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	W	N	E	S	P	1♦	P	P	1♥	P	2♣	P	3♠	P	3NT	P	P	P		
W	N	E	S																			
P	1♦	P	P																			
1♥	P	2♣	P																			
3♠	P	3NT	P																			
P	P																					
<b>W</b> ♠ AK1052 ♥ AQJ87 ♦ K9 ♣ 6		<b>E</b> ♠ Q94 ♥ K ♦ AJ1043 ♣ AJ105																				
	<b>S</b> ♠ 86 ♥ 10652 ♦ 652 ♣ Q742																					

3NT E NS: 0 EW: 0

Rewind Previous Next Options GIB Play BBO

Think about how you would bid this hand.

Then, click [here](#) to view Dwight's response.

Please note that you can also view past problems and Dwight's solutions on the [LBC](#) web site.

**Learn to Play Bridge** ▲

- Welcome New Bridge Players
- Bridge Courses
- Games for Newer Players
- Lost and Found
- Ask Dwight
- Teacher Bios

## Learning Opportunities continued



Peter Tuttle

*Hello Tuesday and  
Wednesday folks!  
I miss you both.  
Here's a lesson for you.*

**Why open this hand 1 Heart  
rather than 1 Diamond?**  
You open the bidding with this hand.

♠	VOID
♥	A 10 8 7 2
♦	Q 10 9 6 4 2
♣	A Q

Regardless of your opening bid, partner likely will respond 1 spade. What would you rebid?

If you open 1 diamond and partner bids 1 spade, re-bidding 2 hearts shows longer diamonds than hearts **but also promises around 17 working points.**

It is better to open 1 heart and then re-bid 2 diamonds. This accurately shows your strength and keeps the bidding low.

It is usually better to lie (fib) about the length of your suits than about the strength of your hand.

Next newsletter we will continue with this hand.

### Joke of the Day:

A man told his doctor, "Help me! I am addicted to *Twitter*."  
The doctor replies, "Sorry, I don't follow you."



## Virtual Corner

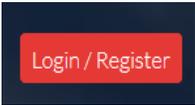
### Wednesday Game Continues

We have enjoyed a good turnout for the recently added Wednesday morning game for our 0 – 500 players. We will continue that time slot and hope to gain more players as the golf season comes to an end. We look forward to seeing you at **9:45 a.m.** You may register up to 2 hours before any game. Please register early but you may leave BBO and return at least 5 minutes before the game. Please be sure that your partner is online then as well.

### Want to get Started in Virtual Club Games? We Miss You!

You will need to have a BBO login.

#### To Create a BBO Login

- Go to [Bridge Base Online](http://www.bridgebase.com) [www.bridgebase.com](http://www.bridgebase.com)
- Click on Register 
- Complete the information to become a member. **It is free.**  
At this point you create your **User Name** and **Password**.

User name Max 10 characters 010	Required	Real name
Password Max 10 characters 010	Required	ACBL Number
Confirm password Max 10 characters 010	Required	Other
E-mail address	Required	

**Save this information.** It is required later.

Help is available. Phone and email information for our members can be found on **Pianola**. If you are not sure where to start, email [Adele Woolfe](mailto:Adele Woolfe) and she will direct you to the help you need.

Click [here](#) to view information on getting started.



### Guests May play in LBC Virtual Games

You may invite a member from a different club to play in LBC Virtual Club games once a week. Beforehand, you must contact [Bruce Moor](#) so that the person will be eligible to play.

## Virtual Corner

continued



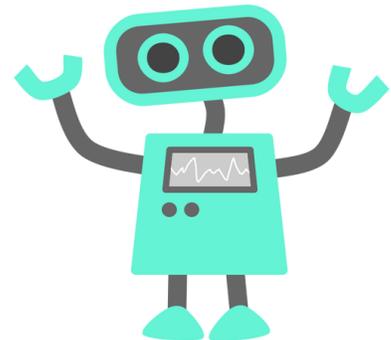
### Club Championship Week Upgraded!

**Monday, September 21<sup>st</sup> – Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup>**

- ★ Awards will be doubled.
- ★ 1/4 **gold** and 3/4 **black**
- ★ This will apply to **ALL** games for the week.
- ★ **Game added - Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup> @ 1:00**

### So, What About Those Robots?

Robot pairs are now considered ineligible for masterpoint awards by the Masterpoint Engine. Just to ensure that you all understand what this means, while the BBO results will show robot pairs receiving awards, this will change when your games are processed in Live for Clubs.



Please understand that all masterpoint awards shown on BBO are unofficial. The awards in [Live for Clubs](#) are the official awards.

If you have questions or comments regarding the newsletter, please contact [Adele Woolfe](#).

**Keep up to date on everything that's happening  
at the London Bridge Centre.**

**Visit the website: [www.londonbridgecentre.ca](http://www.londonbridgecentre.ca)**